

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2014

COMMITTEE STATEMENT

LB485

Hearing Date: Thursday March 14, 2013
Committee On: Judiciary
Introducer: Conrad
One Liner: Prohibit discrimination based upon sexual orientation as prescribed

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:

Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye: 5 Senators Ashford, Chambers, Davis, Lathrop, McGill
Nay: 2 Senators Christensen, Seiler
Absent: 1 Senator Coash
Present Not Voting:

Proponents:

SEN. DANIELLE CONRAD
AMY MILLER
CARL ESKRIDGE
BARBARA ALBERS
KIMBERLY TAYLOR-RILEY
IAN WILL
BETH RILEY
JILL LISKE-CLARK
BRIAN WHITECALF

JAMES BOWERS
GUILLERMO PENA
TODD RUHTER
CARRIE GARRISON
LUCAS PETERSON
TYLER RICHARD
RICHARD MACIEJEWSKI

Representing:

INTRODUCER
ACLU NEBRASKA
SELF
NEOC
CITY OF LINCOLN
SELF
INCLUSIVE COMMITTEE
SELF
HASTINGS CHAPTER OF PFLAG, NEBRASKANS
FOR PEACE
NASW
TRUTH AND LOVE COMMUNITY CHURCH
SELF
SELF
SELF
OUTLINC
NEBRASKANS FOR PEACE

Opponents:

MARK ASHTON
MARTHA ROSS
KELLIE FIEDOREK
RALPH BODIE
RICHARD CLEMENTS
EDWARD STRINGHAM
LOUIS SAFRANEK
JAMES PATTERSON
AL RISKOWSKI
DAVE BYDALEK
KYLE GOMEZ

Representing:

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH
SELF
ALLIANCE DEFENDING FREEDOM
SELF
SELF
SELF
SELF
TRINITY HOPE CHURCH
NE FAMILY COUNCIL
FAMILY FIRST
SELF

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Legislative Bill 485 would make statutory changes to prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or marital status.

The bill would also repeal statute section 48-1109, which provides that members of the Communist Party are not protected under the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act.

Explanation of amendments:

AM2111 would strike the original sections of LB485 and replace with AM2111. AM2111 would add "gender identity" and "sexual orientation" to Nebraska's nondiscrimination laws. Under AM2111, "gender identity" would mean the actual or perceived appearance, expression, identity, or behavior of an individual, whether or not that appearance, expression, identity, or behavior is different from the individual's assigned sex at birth (page 30). "Sexual orientation" would mean actual or perceived homosexuality, heterosexuality, or bisexuality (page 31).

AM2111 would apply to all public employees, all government contractors, and private employers with fifteen (15) or more employees. AM2111 would broaden the religious exemptions (page 15) of the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act to include religious organizations - addition to already - existing religious exemptions - and would also include religious schools, colleges, universities, or other educational institutions.

Brad Ashford, Chairperson